

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A guard for stationary placement in front of a swimming pool skimmer opening to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering the skimmer opening, comprising:
 - a substantially flat rectangular body of open mesh material, said guard having top and bottom edges and opposite ends and having length and width dimensions to fit across a skimmer opening of a swimming pool, said guard being flexible and bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings;
 - ~~an elongate body of open mesh material having~~ attaching means on said guard ~~thereon~~ for attachment of the guard body to a wall of a swimming pool so that the guard extends across the skimmer opening of the a swimming pool skimmer opening, with the top and bottom edges of the guard disposed, respectively, above and below the surface of water in the pool, and the opposite ends of the guard disposed against the swimming pool wall on opposite sides of the skimmer opening to prevent floating debris on the water from entering said skimmer opening, said body guard being self-supporting so that it remains in position across the skimmer opening after being attached being adjustable to fit different size skimmer openings, and functioning to trap floating debris and prevent the debris from entering the skimmer opening.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 9 ~~4~~, wherein:
 - the guard is flexible, and is bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings.

4. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 1 3, wherein:
the guard is made in one piece from a plastic material.
5. (original) A guard as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the attaching means comprises at least one suction cup at each end of the guard.
6. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 5, wherein:
the attaching means further comprises a tab on each end of the ~~elongate~~
body, said at least one suction cup being carried by the tabs.
7. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
the tabs are each joined to the body by a living hinge, whereby the tabs are
easily flexed to lie parallel to a wall surface of a swimming pool to which the guard is to be
attached.
8. (original) A guard as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
the guard is about thirty inches long and fifteen inches high.
9. (new) A guard for placement in front of a swimming pool skimmer opening
to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering the skimmer opening, comprising:
an elongate body of open mesh material having suction cups thereon for
attachment of the body across a swimming pool skimmer opening, said body being flexible
and bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or
lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings, and
functioning to trap floating debris and prevent the debris from entering the skimmer
opening.
10. (new) A guard as claimed in claim 9, wherein:
the guard is made in one piece of a plastic material.